

Serial No. 10/725,885  
60130-1957

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An axle assembly comprising:  
an axle housing;  
a pump housing attachable to cover an opening within said axle housing;  
a pump mounted within said pump housing, wherein said pump housing includes a cavity defining a supply passage for communicating lubricant from a sump within said axle housing to said pump; and  
an input shaft supported by said pump housing and driving said pump.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said pump supplies lubricant from ~~a~~said sump within said axle housing to a driveline component supported within said axle housing.
3. (ORIGINAL) The assembly as recited in claim 2, comprising an annular passage defined within said pump housing surrounding said input shaft.
4. (ORIGINAL) The assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein said input shaft comprises a lubricant passageway receiving lubricant from said pump.
5. (ORIGINAL) The assembly as recited in claim 4, wherein said lubricant passageway comprises at least one outlet passage for distributing lubricant.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in claim 1, comprising a bearing supporting rotation of said input shaft, said bearing mounted within said pump housing.

Serial No. 10/725,885  
60130-1957

7. (ORIGINAL) The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said pump housing comprises a filter housing for attachment of a lubricant filter.
8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said pump housing comprises a relief valve for controlling a lubricant pressure emitted from said pump.
9. (ORIGINAL) The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said pump comprises a rotor pump.
10. (ORIGINAL) The assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein said rotor pump comprises a reversing ring for directing oil flow in a first direction regardless of input shaft rotational direction.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said pump housing ~~comprises~~ includes a bearing cage supporting rotation of said input shaft, wherein said bearing cage is supported entirely within said pump housing independent of said axle housing.
- 12-21. (CANCELLED)
22. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 1, including a bearing cage disposed within said pump housing and spaced an axial distance from said axle housing.
23. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 1, including a pinion shaft supported within said axle housing and driven by said input shaft.

Serial No. 10/725,885  
60130-1957

24. (NEW) An axle assembly comprising:  
an axle housing including an opening for an input shaft;  
a pump housing attached to the axle housing over said opening;  
a pump mounted within said pump housing and driven by said input shaft; and  
a bearing member supported within said pump housing separate from said axle housing  
for supporting rotation of said input shaft.
25. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 24, wherein said input shaft includes a lubricant  
passage for communicating lubricant into said axle housing.
26. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 25, wherein said lubricant passage comprise a  
first passage extending axially through said input shaft and a plurality of second passages in  
communication with said first passage that communicate lubricant outside said input shaft.
27. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 24, wherein said pump housing includes an inlet  
in communication with a sump within said axle housing and a cavity defining a supply passage  
within said pump housing from said inlet to said pump.
28. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 24, wherein said pump housing includes an  
elongated section including said inlet and said cavity.
29. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 24, wherein said input shaft drives a pinion shaft  
supported for rotation within said axle assembly.